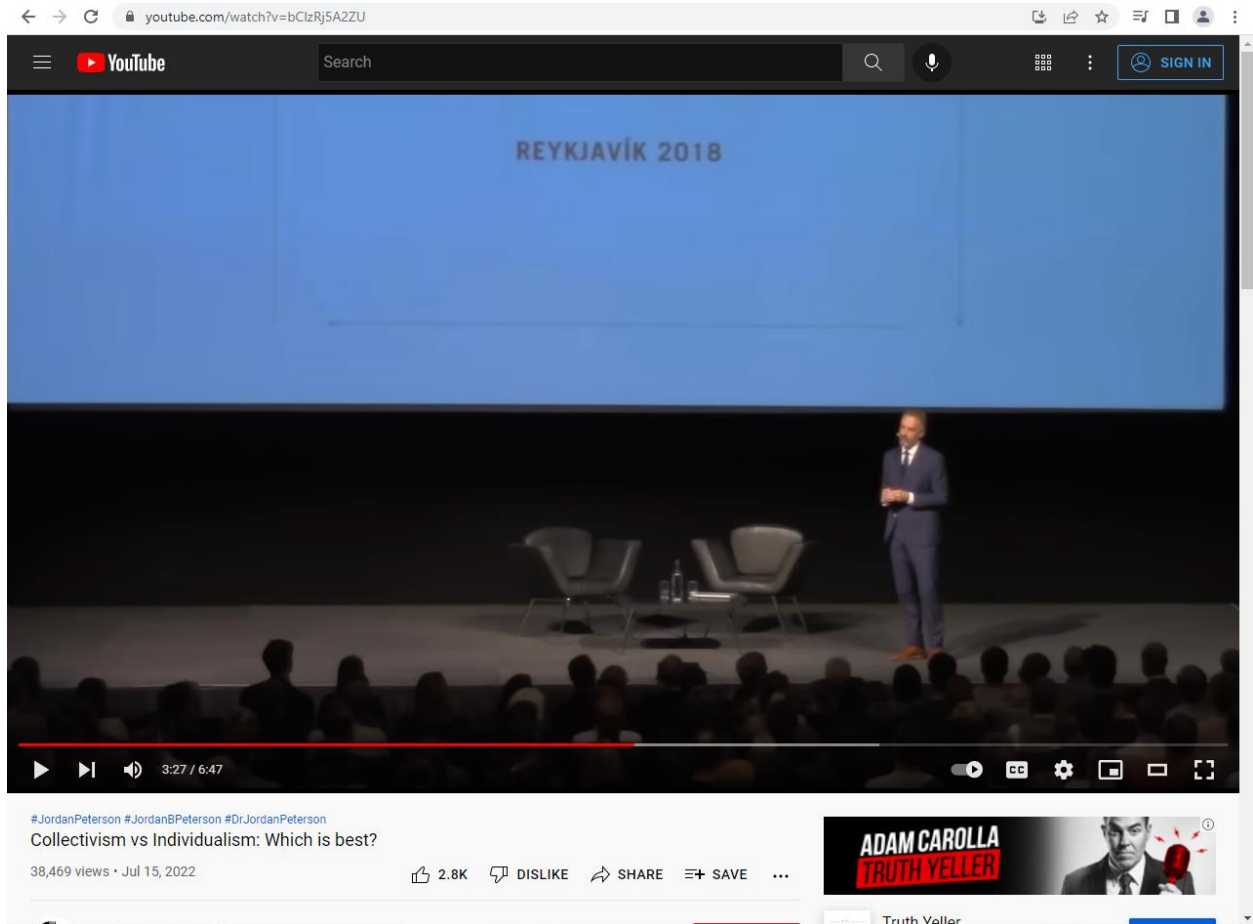


Collectivism vs Individualism: Which is best? Jordan B Peterson, 2022-07-15



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bClzRj5A2ZU>

Transcript:

0:00

i concluded

0:02

and tried to lay out the rationale for

0:03

this that

0:06

the

0:07

the fight between these two belief

0:09

systems but let's let's look at the

0:11

belief systems it's not communism versus

0:13

the west it's not communism versus the

0:15

free market it's it's different than

0:16

that it's collectivism

0:19

in its far-right form let's say the

0:21

far-right form of the nazis and the far

0:23

left form of the radical leftists the

0:26

communists that's collectivism

0:28

versus individualism

0:30

that's the fundamental conflict

0:33

and there are variants of the

0:34

collectivist viewpoint but it doesn't

0:35

matter they can be grouped under the

0:37

rubric of collectivism there's important

0:39

differences but we don't have to get

0:40

into that the western take wasn't

0:43

collectivist it was individualist

0:45

and the central idea of the west was

0:47

that

0:48

although people are obviously

0:51

obviously aggregate into groups

0:54

and many different groups because all of

0:55

you are members of very of many

0:57

different groups ethnicities genders

1:00

sexes races family groups community

1:03

groups

1:04

you can be grouped a very large number

1:06

of ways and and you tend towards the

1:09

adoption of something approximating a

1:11

group identity because you know you take

1:12

care of your family and you're a member

1:14

of your community and you have a certain

1:16

amount of justifiable patriotism in

1:19

relationship to your state the group

1:21

identity is definitely part of who you

1:23

are

1:24

the question is what's the fundamental

1:27

defining characteristic of who you are

1:30

and the collectivist definition is that

1:32

you are

1:34

the avatar of a collective and that's

1:37

fundamentally who you are but the

1:39

western perspective is not that the

1:41

western perspective is that despite the

1:43

fact that people have an individual

1:46

level and a collective level the

1:47

individual level is to be regarded as

1:50

paramount you're to be treated above all

1:54

above all as an individual

1:56

now

1:57

and i looked into that very deeply and i

1:59

thought that isn't arbitrary it's

2:01

actually correct

2:04

that's the right way of looking at the

2:05

world

2:06

and then you might say well what do you

2:07

mean the right way and of course that's

2:09

the right question because that is the

2:11

question if something's the right way of

2:14

looking at something well why is it the

2:16

right way of looking at it

2:18

but i want to

2:20

put a little spin on that too because

2:22

usually when we talk about individualism

2:24

in the west at least in the modern world

2:27

maybe let's say for the last 50 years or

2:30

something like that maybe it's after

2:31

world war ii i don't know exactly the

2:33

parameters it doesn't matter certainly

2:35

since the 1960s

2:36

when we think about the tradition of

2:38

individuality in the west we think about

2:41

the tradition of individual rights

2:44

and there's a problem with that because

2:47

the fundamental individual tradition of

2:50

the west is not individual rights and

2:53

rights have a problem rights are sort of

2:55

like your privilege compared to other

2:57

people i have these rights and don't

3:00

tread on them

3:02

that that walls me off and makes me

3:05

privileged in some

3:07

sense it means that i have the right to

3:09

do things i have the right to pursue my

3:11

own interests i have the right to pursue

3:13

happiness for example that's explicitly

3:16

laid out in the american system

3:19

the rights are what is special about me

3:21

and so when you look at individuality or

3:23

individualism from that perspective you

3:25

can think about it as a selfish idea and

3:28

it's often criticized by collectivists

3:30

precisely for that selfishness

3:33

but the fundamental idea of the

3:34

individual in the west isn't predicated

3:36

on rights even though that's important

3:39

it's predicated on responsibility

3:42

right so

3:44

your role as an individual

3:46

in the west isn't to be the bearer of

3:49

rights of intrinsic rights even though

3:52

those are important

3:54

your responsibility as an individual in

3:56

the west

3:57

is to bear the responsibility of an

3:59

individual

4:01

and it's in bearing that responsibility

4:04

that

4:04

you set yourself right and your family

4:07

right and you keep the state on track

4:09

it's not from expressing your rights

4:12

it's from shouldering your

4:14

responsibility and i would say that

4:17

the reason that you have rights in the

4:19

west

4:20

is so that you can shoulder your

4:22

responsibility it's not the other way

4:24

around

4:25

it's so that you can do what's best on

4:27

your behalf and in that manner do what's

4:29

best on your family's behalf and in that

4:32

manner contribute to the degree that you

4:34

can to the community

4:36

and that if you do all those things

4:38

simultaneously which means to accept the

4:40

responsibility for that then

4:43

things move ahead as well as they can

4:46

move ahead which doesn't necessarily

4:48

mean well because life is very difficult

4:51

and there's no

4:53

sure way through it there's only

4:57

less bad approaches that might be a way

5:00

of thinking about it and the least bad

5:03

approach you can manage is to

5:05

shoulder your responsibility as an

5:07

individual

5:08

and that's the

5:10

and i would say that one of the things

5:12

that drives

5:13

the collectivist ethos which is often

5:17

formulated in terms of compassion for

5:19

the oppressed which is something we'll

5:21

talk about a little bit later is

5:23

actually a deep desire to at all costs

5:27

avoid that responsibility

5:30

and it's no wonder

5:32

because the responsibility is

5:34

overwhelming say the world

5:36

fundamentally is a tragic place

5:39

right it's a place in which each of us

5:41

is broken

5:42

and it's contaminated by the ever

5:45

present reality of betrayal and

5:47

malevolence

5:49

and to

5:50

shoulder the responsibility first for

5:52

even admitting to that

5:54

and second for

5:56

assuming that

5:57

you are duty-bound let's say

6:01

to do something about that well that's a

6:03

task that anyone who has his or her eyes

6:06

open should be leery of accepting and i

6:09

would say

6:10

well perhaps there's no credible reason

6:13

for accepting it except that every other

6:15

alternative is worse

6:18

and so that's a brutal

6:20

fact

6:22

so

6:23

the antidote to collectivism is

6:25

individualism but it's not

6:28

the individualism of

6:30

the privileged person with rights it's

6:32

the terrible burden of the individual

6:35

who determines that he or she will

6:37

shoulder their responsibility to that

6:40

Most.